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FOR ACTION

COUNTRY PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATIONS**

Tunisia

Addendum

SUMMARY

The present addendum to the country note submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session of 1996 contains the final country programme recommendation for Board approval.

It contains a recommendation for funding the country programme of Tunisia, which has an annual planning level of $1,000,000 or less. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the amount of $5,000,000 from general resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $2,500,000 in supplementary funds, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 1997 to 2001.

* E/ICEF/1996/18.

** The original country note provided only indicative figures for estimated programme cooperation. The figures provided in the present addendum are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1995. They will be contained in the "Summary of 1996 recommendations for general resources and supplementary funding programmes" (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.43 and Add.2).

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Basic data (1994 unless otherwise stated)

Child population (millions, 0-15 years)	3.3
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	39
IMR (per 1,000 live births)	32
Underweight (per cent moderate and severe)	9
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	..
Literacy (per cent male/female) (1989)	79/55
Primary school enrolment (per cent net, male/female) (1995)	94/89
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (per cent)	87
Access to drinking water (per cent)	98
Access to health services (per cent) (1983)	90
GNP per capita	$1,800

One-year-olds fully immunized (1995) against:

tuberculosis:	89 per cent
diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus:	92 per cent
measles:	91 per cent
poliomyelitis:	92 per cent

Pregnant women immunized against:

tetanus:	..

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

1. Sustained investment in the social sector and economic growth have enabled Tunisia to make substantial progress in human development. Women occupy an important place in this area, thanks in particular to a political commitment in their favour which resulted in the adoption in 1956 of the Code of Personal Status (CPS), confirmed by the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the recent revision of the CPS to promote greater equality. On the basis of this experience, the commitment to children led to the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the development of a national programme of action (NPA) and the introduction in 1995 of a child protection code (CPC), which was welcomed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

2. Tunisia has achieved the intermediate objectives of the NPA and is on track to achieve the objectives for the year 2000. Two major surveys (the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development (known as PAPCHILD) and the National Survey on Maternal Mortality) revealed rates of maternal mortality and infant mortality, respectively, of 69 per 100,000 and 34.9 per 1,000 live births. In spite of its outstanding performance, the health-care system is now confronted with an imbalance between regions and a concern to enhance the quality and efficiency of services. In order to respond more effectively to the needs of communities, the Government intends to strengthen the district health programmes and the decentralized management of services. HIV infection remains limited, with 552 HIV cases declared, including 270 cases of AIDS. The Government gave

particular attention to this matter at a very early stage and set up a national multi-sectoral prevention and control programme supported by the World Health Organization (WHO).

3. The educational reform implemented in 1989 has made education free and compulsory between 6 and 16 years of age and has helped to reduce gender disparities at the national level. Despite this progress, there are problems with regard to quality, performances and fairness, which are among the principal causes of an adult illiteracy rate of 37 per cent. The growing demand for pre-school services led the Government to adopt a strategy for expanded coverage, which currently stands at 11 per cent, through encouragement of the informal sector.

4. Data on children in difficult circumstances remain inadequate. The current protection system is based on care by specialized institutions. The CPC will provide a means of strengthening its preventive dimension by placing persons responsible for the protection of children (ombudsmen) in the 23 governorates.

5. The challenges to be met are the maintenance and consolidation of progress achieved, the targeting of priority areas in the south and west of the country and the development of a response tailored to the new needs of children and young people with respect to protection and development.

PROGRAMME COOPERATION, 1992-1996

6. The objectives of the 1992-1996 programme were to help in reducing infant mortality, tackle the school drop-out problem, particularly among girls in disadvantaged regions, and advocate the strengthening of the national programme for the benefit of children. The principal achievements of the programme were the attainment of all the objectives for 1995, in the framework of the NPA, and the harmonization of national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which led to the introduction of the CPC.

7. The health programme has been geared to reducing infant morbidity and mortality and has contributed to the consolidation of national programmes and to better utilization of maternal and child health (MCH) services. In the framework of the expanded programme on immunization (EPI) and the programme for the control of diarrhoeal diseases (CDD), it has provided training for over 500 newly recruited persons, has been instrumental in setting up an epidemiological surveillance system and has provided equipment and means of transport for disadvantaged regions. With respect to acute respiratory infections (ARI) and perinatal needs, action to be taken for the perinatal care of the mother-child unit and the management of cases of ARI has been standardized through cooperation, which has also contributed to the development of a system for data collection and of in-service training for 1,000 front-line doctors, over 800 midwives and 2,000 paramedics. The adoption of the baby-friendly hospital initiative has led to the certification of over 90 per cent of the country's maternity units. The mobilization of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and independent doctors, as well as the information, education and communication (IEC) strategy, in particular through television, has made it possible to achieve high utilization rates of services for the EPI,

CDD and ARI programmes. The findings of studies and surveys made with the contribution of UNICEF confirm that the levels of coverage in certain areas remain below target levels and that the utilization of perinatal services should be improved.

8. In addition to the study on the drop-out rate among girls in rural areas and advocacy, the education programme has sought to reduce the number of school drop-outs through the development of new programmes for pre-school education, improve the school environment in 30 rural schools and set up 500 school social welfare units. Children who had dropped out of school have been targeted through support for the development of the National Literacy Programme. In 1993, after the mid-term review, the programme was refocused to target the quality of learning, which is the main factor responsible for failure and the problems of fairness and performance. The acquisition of essential skills by children, the timely remedying of gaps in learning and interactive teaching have emerged as priority areas for cooperation. The working methods and the tools developed have been tested in 65 schools since 1995. The strategies of the projects for "improving the environment of rural schools" and "school social welfare" have been consolidated to supplement the project on "quality of learning" through efficient management of educational establishments and the protection of children at risk of failure in school.

9. The advocacy and social planning programme has been instrumental in the attainment of the intermediate objectives, through mobilization of the media and artists in order to eliminate poliomyelitis, involve the scout movement in the prevention of diarrhoeal diseases and develop a strategy for the dissemination through the media and the community of the audio-visual package for educating parents in looking after young children. The programme has played a part in promoting the rights of the child among parents and pupils by incorporating the values and principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in school textbooks and in a travelling exhibition. The adoption of the CPC and the presentation of the report on the implementation of the Convention to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 1995 gave rise to the institution of an annual follow-up report on the situation of children and opened the way to strengthening the system for the protection of children in difficult circumstances. The social planning project contributed to the development of the NPA, the National Family Plan and studies preparing the strategic choices for the ninth National Development Plan. It also supported the participation of Tunisian NGOs in the process of preparing for the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. Experiments have been made in systematizing follow-up and improving the analysis of the situation of children. The Presidential decision to have an annual report on the situation of children submitted to the Council of Ministers has created an opportunity to cooperate in the establishment of a system for monitoring the NPA and implementing the Convention.

Lessons learned

10. Experience has shown the relevance of the advocacy strategy and its contribution to the development of policies to benefit children (iodization of salt, breast-feeding, basic skills). High-level technical assistance, training based on modern teaching techniques and study visits have been major factors in

capacity-building in key areas. Operational research and demonstration projects such as the integrated regional school-development project have promoted understanding of the problems and have provided a means of expanding partnership both centrally and locally. Intersectoral coordination and the development of a partnership with the United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, scouts, and so forth, have proved to be determining factors in monitoring and implementing programmes. However, the targeting of priority groups, monitoring, evaluation and the documentation of experience have been inadequate.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAMME COOPERATION, 1997-2001

Estimated annual costs

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
General resources						
Health	315	314	313	311	310	1 563
Basic education	287	282	277	270	265	1 381
Advocacy and protection	110	109	108	106	105	538
Social planning	50	48	44	40	37	219
Programme support	238	247	258	273	283	1 299
Subtotal	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000
Supplementary funding						
Health	160	160	160	160	160	800
Basic education	235	220	250	250	245	1 200
Advocacy and protection	50	50	50	50	50	250
Social planning	50	50	50	50	50	250
Subtotal	495	480	510	510	505	2 500
Total	1 495	1 480	1 510	1 510	1 505	7 500

11. The 1997-2001 programme was drawn up jointly by the Government and UNICEF, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Agencies of the United Nations system, the principal bilateral donors and NGOs were also involved. The frame of reference of the new programme is the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the NPA and it will provide support to the Government in the implementation of the measures to follow up recent international conferences. The strategic thrust of the programme was adopted by the strategy meeting. The observations of the members of the Executive Board concerning the country note

were taken into account. The structure of the programme has been slightly adjusted relative to the country note in order better to reflect the importance to be placed on social planning and monitoring the situation of children.

Country programme objectives and strategy

12. The purpose of cooperation is to support the efforts of the Government to ensure that all children are born and grow up in a social environment which safeguards their rights, recognizes their fundamental needs and mobilizes available resources to meet them. The overall objectives of the programme are, first, to contribute towards the attainment and maintenance of the objectives of the NPA with respect to MCH in all governorates. Second, the programme is intended to ensure that in underprivileged areas at least 80 per cent of school-age children finish primary school after receiving a sound education by improving the quality, performance and fairness of the educational system. Third, the programme aims to make the new child protection system established under the CPC operational in the 23 governorates and to promote there the rights of the child, ensuring in particular that 30 per cent of primary school teachers incorporate the rights of the child in their teaching. Fourth, it aims to strengthen the information and analysis system for monitoring implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

13. Centrally, the purpose of advocacy will be to maintain the commitment and level of funding earmarked for programmes on behalf of children, particularly in priority areas. National capacities, intersectoral coordination and the mobilization of new partners will be developed in order to respond more effectively to new demands and to meet the challenge of improving the quality of services. Regionally, the programme will develop skills in problem analysis and the planning of services and will be supported by the dissemination of a culture of the rights of the child among regional authorities, members of Parliament, and so forth. Locally, the development of effective-management approaches, the collection of qualitative and quantitative data on children and providing parents with the necessary skills to enable them to care for their children, will aim to establish a more sustained dialogue with the population and secure their participation.

Health

14. This programme consists of three projects. The first is intended to reduce disparities between levels of coverage by the EPI, DDC and ARI services by targeting areas in the west of the country that have not reached the levels established by the NPA. To that end, the project will support capacity-building for identifying and monitoring those areas and also the development of remedial strategies through data analysis, operational research, training and IEC. In the second project, UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO, will support the decentralization of basic health-care management, which has begun in eight governorates, targeting MCH services as a priority. The project is designed to develop and test models for managing MCH services with a view to improving the quality of care and ensuring effective coverage at the lowest cost. The capacity of health teams to initiate a dialogue with the community in order to respond more effectively to its priority health needs and monitor the performance of health services will be stepped up. In collaboration with

national and international universities, the project will support training, operational research and information management. The third project will help to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by increasing the utilization rate of perinatal services to 85 per cent. Assistance by UNICEF will focus on improving social mobilization strategies and IEC, developing training modules for ensuring the quality of services and better adapting training to employment for health personnel. In view of the prevalence of anaemia among women and children, UNICEF will help to develop courses of action and devise a national strategy for addressing and combating the illness. Supplementary funding would be used to improve training, social mobilization and the availability of basic equipment; it would also make it possible to extend health area facilities to other governorates and assist in the treatment of pregnant and nursing mothers with anaemia.

Basic education

15. The aim of this programme is to introduce into 360 designated priority schools a curriculum centred on basic skills and designed to permit all children to acquire the theoretical and practical knowledge which is a prerequisite for subsequent learning. The basic skills will be introduced using child-centred teaching methods and classroom organization. The management skills of the school principals will be strengthened to enable them to assist in improving the quality of teaching, initiating dialogue with parents and instituting measures to prevent and reduce academic failure. The decentralized computer database will be improved by making the various national, regional and local levels responsible for collecting, processing and using the data. All this will be done in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) which supports school canteens. Finally, the programme will seek to enhance parents' understanding of how young children develop through the production of audio-visual programmes. In addition, a pilot experiment to improve the quality of the care of young children will be developed with non-governmental organizations and the informal sector. Supplementary funding would provide a means of consolidating the work in training, providing additional equipment for schools, such as computer equipment for supervisors, and extending the coverage of projects.

Advocacy and protection

16. The programme consists of two projects. The first aims at developing a system for the protection of children through the implementation of the CPC, the setting up of a network of persons responsible for child protection (ombudsmen) in the 23 governorates and the participation of other partners at the regional and local levels (governors, parliamentarians, juvenile magistrates, family magistrates, welfare workers, educators, and so forth). A training programme for all these partners, particularly the ombudsmen, will be developed by an interdisciplinary team composed of national experts supported by international technical assistance. The effectiveness of the training of those involved, the operation of the system and the impact on the situation of children in difficult circumstances will be assessed by means of follow-up and periodic evaluations. The second project is concerned with promoting the rights of the child among parents and children through the media and through the education of children in school. The revision of school textbooks undertaken by the Government between

1992 and 1996 has resulted in the incorporation of new values of tolerance, democracy, equality and human rights. The new programme is designed to consolidate this educational approach through the training of inspectors. This training will be provided in university institutions for new graduates and at the regional level for the 350 existing inspectors. In the programme's second phase these inspectors will in turn train 780 teaching assistants and teachers. The programme will help to promote the objectives of the decade and the values of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the occasion of special events. Supplementary funding would be used to enhance the exchange of experience and technical assistance in the field of the protection of children.

Social planning

17. The purpose of this programme, which arose from the Presidential decision to institute an annual report to monitor the situation of children, is to develop a process for analysing existing sectoral data compilations and to conduct further studies and surveys to obtain detailed and qualitative data. The programme will rely on appropriate technical assistance and will establish cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the same fields. Supplementary funding would be mobilized to develop a regional monitoring capacity in 5 of the 23 governorates.

Management of cooperation, monitoring and evaluation

18. The cooperation programme will be managed under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and through monitoring by sectoral or intersectoral committees which will regularly evaluate progress made and take any necessary corrective measures. For that purpose, their starting-point will be the existing information systems and the activity reports of the decentralized services, in particular on operational research. Monitoring will be consolidated and future planning ensured by means of an annual review. The outcome and impact of the programme will be evaluated through specific studies, which will also make it possible to gain a better understanding of ongoing problems. The social planning programme will support this process through more effective monitoring of the situation of children.

Cooperation with other partners

19. The agencies of the United Nations system, in particular UNFPA, WHO, WFP, UNDP, UNESCO and the World Bank, as well as the European Union, national associations and non-governmental organizations are major partners in programme design and implementation. An informal working group of representatives of the principal donor members of the Executive Board will continue to promote concerted efforts with respect to convergent activities. Inter-agency working groups will support the Government in monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the International Conference on Population and Development.

Mobilization of funds

20. Supplementary funding will come essentially from the mobilization of bilateral and multilateral donors, some of whom have already expressed an interest in continuing and building on past cooperation experience. Part of the supplementary funding will be secured through the strengthening of the Greeting Card Operation.

Programme management

21. The changing role of UNICEF cooperation in Tunisia necessitates a streamlined, consolidated and efficient management structure. The programme will be managed by programme administrators with the experience and calibre required by the challenges and managerial complexity of the new programme. Some posts will be abolished.

TABLE

LINKAGE OF PROGRAMME BUDGET AND STAFFING/STAFF COSTS

COUNTRY : TUNISIA
PROGRAMME : 1997-2001

PROGRAMME SECTION/AREAS AND FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAMME BUDGET (In thousands of US dollars)				POSTS a/										STAFF COSTS b/ (In thousands of US dollars)		
	GR	FSF	NSF	TOTAL	D2/L7	D1/L6	P/L5	P/L4	P/L3	P/L2	IP	NP	GS	TOTAL	IP	LOCAL	TOTAL
GENERAL RESOURCES :																	
HEALTH	1,563			1,563	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.0	426.1	426.1
BASIC EDUCATION	1,381			1,381	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5	1.5	0.0	276.7	276.7
ADVOCACY AND PROTECTION	538			538	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.5	0.0	51.6	51.6
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	1,299			1,299	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	5	6	777.5	414.0	1,191.5
SOCIAL PLANNING	219			219	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GR	5,000			5,000	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	7	10	777.5	1,168.4	1,945.9
SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING :																	
HEALTH		0	800	800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
BASIC EDUCATION		0	1,200	1,200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ADVOCACY AND PROTECTION		0	250	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PROGRAMME SUPPORT		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SOCIAL PLANNING		0	250	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SF		0	2,500	2,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL GR & SF	5,000	0	2,500	7,500	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	7	10	777.5	1,168.4	1,945.9
ADM. & PROGRAMME SUPPORT BUDGET	Operating costs			865.9													
	Staffing				0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	4	7	847.2	1,212.6	2,059.8
GRAND TOTAL (GR+SF+ADM)					0	0	1	1	0	0	2	4	11	17	1,624.7	2,381.0	4,005.7
Number of posts and staff costs:																	
Current programme cycle											2	5	12	19			
At the end of proposed programme cycle (indicative only)											2	4	11	17	1,624.7	2,381.0	4,005.7

GR = general resources.
SF = supplementary funding.
FSF = funded supplementary funding.
NSF = new supplementary funding.
IP = international Professional.
NP = national Professional.
GS = General Service.
ADM = administrative.

a/ Each post, regardless of its funding source, supports the country programme as a whole.
b/ Exclude temporary assistance and overtime; include costs of United Nations volunteers.